

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/724,756

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the subject application. These claims have been examined and stand rejected. Claims 1-18 have been amended. Support for the amendments to these claims can be found throughout the specification. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The declaration has been indicated as being defective, because the Examiner asserts that U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/128,880, from which priority has been claimed, is not indicated in the declaration. Applicant submits that the declaration is not defective for the following reasons. First of all, there is no claim of priority to 60/128,880. Rather, as indicated at page 1 of the specification, the subject application is related to 60/128,880 (i.e., there is no claim of priority being made to 60/128,880). Further, even if a priority claim was made to 60/128,880, there is no requirement that such priority claim be set forth in the declaration. Rather, the U.S. patent rules require that only the specification must contain a reference to the provisional application from which priority is claimed (see 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(5)). Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the assertion that the declaration is defective.

The Examiner has objected to the specification at page 1, line 17, indicating that the attorney docket numbers should be removed and a co-pending application number should be inserted at the appropriate location. Applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this objection.

Claims 1-17 have been objected to for the following informalities: use of the term "original digital negative" in the claims, and the misnumbering of claims due to the duplicate use of claim number 3. As noted above, the claims have been amended to change each occurrence of the term "original digital negative" in the claims to --digital negative--, and the claims from claim 3 (second occurrence) forward have been appropriately amended, including claim dependencies, to correct the inadvertent misnumbering of the claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objections to the claims.

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Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,414,621 to Bown et al. Claims 4, 6, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bown et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based upon the above amendments and the following remarks.

The subject invention relates to providing systems and corresponding methods for recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to a digital negative of the multimedia asset, involving the generation of a nth number of edit lists associated with a nth number of resultant multimedia assets that have been modified from an original high resolution image or digital negative. The edit list, as described in the specification (e.g., see page 10), contains all the necessary information about how to perform a reconstruction of the resultant multimedia asset to which it is associated from at least the digital negative. Thus, in an embodiment where the digital negative has been modified in a number of recursive steps to form a number of resultant multimedia assets, an nth level multimedia asset can be formed from the digital negative by applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the digital negative.

Amended claim 1 recites a method of recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to a digital negative of the multimedia asset, including the following steps: modifying the digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset including at least a digital image that is at a lower resolution than the digital negative, generating a first edit list based upon the modification of the digital negative, associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset, linking the first edit list to the digital negative of the multimedia asset, modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second resultant multimedia asset, generating a second edit list based upon the modification of the first resultant multimedia asset, associating the second edit list with the second resultant multimedia asset, and linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset.

Similarly, amended claim 10 recites an apparatus for recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to an original digital negative of the multimedia asset. The apparatus includes a means for modifying the digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset including at least a digital image that is at a lower resolution than the

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digital negative, a means for generating a first edit list based upon the modification of the digital negative, a means for associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset, a means for linking the first edit list to the digital negative of the multimedia asset, a means for modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second resultant multimedia asset, a means for generating a second edit list based upon the modification of the first resultant multimedia asset, a means for associating the second edit list with the second resultant multimedia asset, and a means for linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the combined features of each of amended claims 1 and 10 in Bown et al.

Bown et al. describes an interactive communications system including a number of terminals linked together, where each terminal includes a visual display apparatus to display a picture and a processor for processing graphic task instructions (GTI's) generated by one or more terminals in the system. Each of the terminals displays the same picture, and any user at a particular terminal may perform a GTI making a change (e.g., addition or deletion) to the picture (see Col. 4, line 10 to Col. 5, line 6 of Bown et al.). The GTI is processed by an interaction handler of the terminal to make the changes to the picture. The GTI is also channeled in the form of a packet of interaction information to the processors of the other terminals so that the same changes can be made to the pictures displayed at the other terminals. Packets of information indicating what user interactions occurred may be saved in a transaction table within a processor so as to bring a third party up to date if he enters a multi-terminal conversation after it has begun.

Bown et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of modifying the digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset including at least a digital image that is at a lower resolution than the digital negative as recited in claims 1 and 10. While Bown et al. describes changes or modifications made to a picture displayed by a number of terminals, there is simply no disclosure or suggestion that the resolution of the displayed picture is ever modified during a particular multi-terminal session. Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated by and should be allowed over Bown et al.

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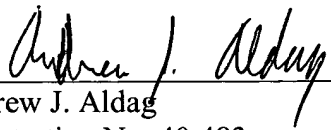
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Claims 2-9 and 11-18 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 10. Accordingly, these claims are also not anticipated by and should be allowed over Bown et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-18. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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